

**WILLIAMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 23, 2002**

A work session of the Williamsburg Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room 3A, Municipal Building, 401 Lafayette Street.

ATTENDANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

Present were Commissioners Davis, Scruggs, Freiling, Friend, Hertzler and Smith. Absent was Commissioner Young. Also present was Planning Director Nester and City Manager Tuttle.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Davis noted that she will be resigning from the Architectural Review Board, and suggested that Mr. Freiling be recommended to City Council for appointment to the ARB. It was the consensus of the Commission to make this recommendation to City Council.

It was decided by the Commission to hold a party to honor retiring Chairman Scott Spence on Saturday, February 23.

Mrs. Davis noted that this was a work session on the Capital Improvement Program.

David Kranbuehl, 201 Harrison Avenue, spoke on two issues that he felt should be included in the CIP:

- Richmond Road landscaping: set aside funds in FY 04 and FY 05 for plantings to landscape between Brooks Street and Monticello Avenue to support the plans being developed by businesses and residents in this area, and set aside in future years funds to develop landscape plans and plantings along Richmond Road, Monticello Avenue to Bypass Road and along Monticello Avenue from Richmond Road to the William and Mary entrance.
- Downtown streetscape: in conjunction with the construction of the Prince George Parking Garage, plan for widening the sidewalk and landscaping, particularly in the context of designing the crosswalk between Boundary and Henry Streets, and consider landscaping and widening the sidewalks on Boundary Street between College Corner and Scotland Street to make the street environmental and pedestrian friendly.

City Manager Jackson Tuttle reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan with the Commission, reviewing various categories:

- Streets
 - Heavy investments are planned on Richmond Road (includes underground wiring). David Kranbuehl was thanked for his involvement in landscape

issues, and it was noted that modest dollars will be needed for landscaping which are available in the project budget.

- Treyburn Drive will be a major new construction project.
- The City is confident in the schedule for the Richmond Road project, which is a higher priority than Treyburn Drive.
- Beautification
 - Approximately 1000 feet of underground wiring on Monticello Avenue is proposed, with participation from Virginia Power (they are obligated for one mile every 10 years). The City's emphasis on major corridors continues. The out year proposals for underground wiring were reviewed, and South Henry Street was noted as a major project. Future candidates for projects include 2nd Street, Capitol Landing Road, Page Street, etc.
- Stormwater Management
 - Work continues on implementing the City's stormwater management plan.
- Municipal Center
 - Various renovations to the Williamsburg Library are planned – the City has a 100% responsibility for the building.
 - Most of the planning and public construction in the Municipal Center area is behind us, and the City is looking for private construction in the area.

Mr. Scruggs said that it would make sense to look at a comprehensive plan for downtown streetscape issues (Prince George Street, Scotland Street, etc.). Mr. Tuttle said that his approach was to look at it as a series of separate initiatives. He said that a drainage line will be redone in Prince George Street, which will raise the issue of whether or not we want to redo the sidewalks – the costs of this work will be a part of the Parking Garage project. Mr. Tuttle also noted that streetscape issues would be considered by the WRHA is it work at the Triangle Building and near the Delis on Scotland Street. He also noted that there is money available for any consultant work that will be needed on streetscape issues.

- Parks and Recreation
 - Mr. Tuttle said that no projects are planned for 2003, but that the goal is to continue to upgrade what we have.

Mrs. Smith asked about Bicentennial Park, and said there is an opportunity for more facilities for children which could fill a need in the downtown area. Mr. Tuttle said that it would probably cost \$15-20,000 for playground equipment.

- Agencies
 - Mr. Tuttle said that the City's cooperation with the WRHA is getting greater as time goes on, and cited the Strawberry Plains Redevelopment Area, the Triangle Building and work on Scotland Street.

The floor was opened to general discussion.

Mr. Hertzler asked about constructing sidewalk on Bypass Road between Rt. 132 and Capitol Landing Road. Mr. Nester said that the sidewalk on the Visitor Center side would be constructed by Colonial Williamsburg in conjunction with work at the Visitor Center. Mr. Tuttle noted the need to rehabilitate the sidewalks along Route 132 between the railroad tracks and Bypass Road.

Fred Miller, Prince George Graphics, said he disagreed with the concept of not taking a comprehensive look at the streetscape. He said the idea of widening sidewalks is an attractive alternative, but should be looked at in the context of the whole area – everything we talk about is piecemeal. He encouraged the allocation of dollars for downtown streetscape improvements.

Mr. Scruggs said that parking, drainage, traffic flow all need to be looked at comprehensively for the downtown area.

Darr Barshis, 17 Forest Hill Drive, spoke in favor of a sewer pump station for the Forest Hill Drive area. He noted numerous problems with the sewer that he and his neighbors have had. He said about 15 homes would be served, and that the pump station could be tied in with the future development of the adjoining Colonial Williamsburg land. He also noted that Public Works and Utility Director Dan Clayton doesn't feel that there is a problem. Mr. Barshis supported warning signs for the unpaved section of Quarterpath Road, speeding up underground wiring, and the construction of a Capitol Landing Road park.

Mrs. Davis asked for Commission members to state their concerns about the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Scruggs said that the City needs to be proactive in the Capitol Landing Road corridor, and would like it to be put on the priority list for underground wiring within the five year CIP. Mr. Freiling said that this is a beautiful street, and that he supports the underground wiring. Mr. Friend also voiced his support, and said that more than \$15,000 is needed for landscaping. Mr. Hertzler and Mrs. Smith expressed concerns about making sure that the landscaping does not conflict with future underground wiring.

It was agreed by the Commission that underground wiring for Capitol Landing Road should be a high priority in the CIP.

Mr. Scruggs said that a comprehensive plan is needed for the downtown area, from the "Deli Corner" at Richmond Road and Scotland Street to the Prince George Street area. Discussion continued, and several Commissioners felt that existing studies in the downtown area should be combined into a coordinated vision for improvements.

It was agreed by the Commission that attention should be focused on downtown streetscape issues, since this could require additions to CIP projects in future years.

Planning Commission Minutes
January 23, 2002

Mr. Scruggs questioned the need for the Papermill Creek Park, which is in the CIP for FY 05. He also said that downtown businesses do not have the opportunity to recycle – the CIP needs to include the consideration of dumpsters for recycling.

Mr. Freiling said that a sidewalk should be constructed on the south side of Prince George Street from North Henry to Nassau Street. Mr. Hertzler noted that improvements are needed to the sidewalk in front of the Dillard complex on Ironbound Road.

Mr. Nester said that he would e-mail the minutes and the draft letter to the City Manager to the Commission prior to the February 20 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Marguerite Davis, Chairman
Williamsburg Planning Commission